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True Guilfordian Dies

by Alex Stoesen, Sarah Malino, William Burris

Algie Newlin, professor of history and political science at Guilford College from 1924 to 1966, was born on a farm in Alamance County North Carolina, the ninth in a family of eleven children. As a child, he acquired a love of the lore of the past from listening to stories his grandmother told about life in nineteenth-century North Carolina. Newlin entered Guilford College in 1916 where he found electricity and running water luxuries he had not known at home. At Guilford his interest in the past was translated into the broader prospects of historical study offered by the college. When he graduated in 1921 he was awarded the Haverford Scholarship, one of the two most prestigious awards in the college of that day. Newlin's athletic achievements led him to be named one of the three greatest athletes in Guilford's history to date. He completed a master's degree at Haverford in 1922 and returned to Guilford in 1924 to remain for the rest of his life, with time out to complete a doctorate at the University of Geneva and for service with Quaker organizations. Until 1939 he was the history department, the chairman of himself, as he put it. In reflecting on those years he said he and colleagues must have been "gluttons for punishment"—seekers after the impossible. But in his total commitment to his work and to Guilford's ideals, traditions and students, what might have seemed impossible was made possible. In the 1920's Newlin created the courses he knew were needed for a solid history major and taught them all. He was one of the last of

that faculty which went unpaid for months during the depths of the Great Depression and later gave part of their salaries to create a student loan fund. In a very real sense the college owes its continued existence to Newlin and his colleagues of that era.

Known to several generations of Guilford students for his hard examinations, attention to detail and strict grading, no one ever signed up for Algie Newlin's courses expecting an easy time. They did, however, find a man of deep understanding, knowledge of a wide range of historical fields, and a sense of humor they would recall with fondness long after they had graduated. Some of his students thought of him as a role model, the person they would most like to emulate in their lives.

Newlin served on virtually every faculty committee including at least a dozen important special committees. One of these, the Campus Committee, which he chaired in 1930's, led the effort to spruce up the campus for the celebration of the college's centennial in 1937. By the time this work was finished, over 1,100 trees and shrubs had been planted and 12,000 square feet of flagstone walk had been laid. Dozens of lesser projects were also finished with Newlin doing much of the lifting and carrying, himself. Later he and members of his family would build their home on Foxwood Drive with their own hands. It became a place where he and his wife Eva extended hospitality to many students, especially foreign students, who found a home there.

Algie Newlin was an easy man

to get to know and to come to love. His warm personality was one which enabled him to relate to a wide range of people. He was never pompous or standoffish. He was always kind, friendly, ordinary, approachable and interested in other people and their work. His spirit always lent a special presence and quality to any activity or occasion he attended. It would probably be impossible to find anyone who did not respect and admire Algie Newlin. He could have chosen other more lucrative or prestigious callings, but he preferred to remain as a professor and to develop and amplify the lives of Guilford's students. Newlin was rewarded by their success in graduate school, law school and in a wide variety of careers.

While Algie Newlin taught courses ranging from Renaissance and Reformation to recent American history, he was a specialist in Quaker genealogy and North Carolina history. In 1965 he published his masterful genealogy of the Newlin family, and in retirement wrote a series of studies on North Carolina topics including: *The Battle of New Garden*, *Charity Cook: A Liberated Woman* and *At the Spring: A History of Spring Monthly Meeting*. His work in local and family history paralleled one of



the major trends in historical scholarship in the United States in the last two decades.

Algie Newlin has provided us with the model of graceful, productive retirement. In addition to his scholarly activity, he taught North Carolina history at Guilford until 1971, in various classes on request, and remained intellectually and physically vigorous until his final brief illness. At the time of his death he was serving on a special committee to plan for the sesquicentennial of the college.

The passing of Algie Newlin

marks the end of an era of direct contact with the college's past. His was a connection that went directly back to Lewis Lyndon Hobbs and on through the administrations of Raymond Binford, Clyde A. Milner and Grimsley T. Hobbs. He could describe in detail dozens of events both major and minor along with scores of faculty members including some he described as "rare characters". His love of Guilford College and work on its behalf has few equals; his quiet, dignified and learned influence will endure.

Commemoration: Gone But Not Forgotten

By Kerry McKay

A commemoration of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was held on campus three weeks ago, January 13-16. The tribute began on Sunday, Jan. 13, with a benediction by Rev. Walter M. Richmond, and a speech by Rev. M. Anthony Lang. The audience was entertained afterwards by the New Hope Baptist Senior and Gospel Choir. About one hundred and fifty people attended this event in Sternberger Auditorium. On Monday night, Jan. 14, students, faculty, and professors packed Sternberger to view the films "Amazing Grace," "I Have A Dream," and "Dr. King's Life." Tuesday evening, Jan. 15, in Founders Gallery, one hundred people gathered to hear speaker

Cleveland Sellers' talk on "Principles and Ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." After the talk, Ken Schwab moderated a panel response. The panel consisted of James France, student and president of student affairs at A&T State University; Tom Jarrell, student and President of the Community Senate at Guilford; Adrienne Manns and Pella Stokes held a workshop on "Institutional Racism." It was beautiful to see so many people get involved. Much thanks goes to faculty members Claudette Franklin, Ed Lowe, Jackie Ludel, Adrienne Manns, Claire Morse, Ken Schwab, Sam Schuman, and Bob Wynn, as well as to Guilford students Jill Bradshaw, Laura Collins, and Becky Gunn.

Staff Prank Mocks Signs

By Doc Roberts

On January 7 Anne Devaney had signs installed in Founders Hall identifying such places as "Commons," "Mailroom," "Kitchen," and "Stair." These were presumably to benefit those who were not familiar with certain rooms and lounges in which meetings were to be held.

This then inspired a staff member, who asked to be referred to as "Deep Joke," to parody these signs. On January 28th more signs appeared, identifying such items as "ceiling," "door," "thermostat," and "water fountain." Was this addition to the sign collection meant only for our vocabulary enrichment?

In an exclusive interview with *The Guilfordian*, Deep Joke commented, "Them what done it had rued the fact that with today's conservative student body, it was up to the staff to perpetrate such pranks. Someone had to take the initiative."

The idea came from practical jokes pulled at a neighboring institution by "real students," who knew how to mock the

administration. According to Deep Joke, the school had put up signs on days of important visitations, dedicating buildings to those who had funded them. The students, in turn, put signs around campus such as, "SKY - Gift of the God Foundation."

This sort of prank is not without precedent here at Guilford; it is an honorable tradition for the staff to pull jokes on students. The chains which line the walkways and keep students from wearing paths across the lawns once played a part in one of these pranks. A certain clique of professors thought that "Keep Off the Grass" signs were not eloquent enough to grace the walkways of such a fine institution as Guilford, and so the joke began. The pranksters made up poetic passages which wordily said "Stay On the Path," and attributed the quotations to famous classic poets. These sayings were then put on signs which were attached to the chains all around campus. It wasn't until a couple of years later that an English professor finally claimed that these poets has never said such things. (To this day there are probably

former students who have said that Walt Whitman is their favorite poet simply because of some poetry that was attributed to him.)

There is also another prank which has gone unnoticed by the students for over a decade. The Guilfordian has learned from Deep Joke that the faculty created a department and offered a major which does not officially exist. It is lamented that some former students have actually graduated with a degree from this department, only to later find that it was all just a joke.

"The clue to identifying this fictitious department," says Deep Joke, "is to knock on all faculty member's doors and see which offices are empty. However, since most faculty members are never in their offices anyway, it is still difficult."

Students cannot help but wonder whether such things as take-home final exams and the price we pay for meals may also be part of this prank by the faculty conspiracy. According to Deep Joke, there is an ancient Asian proverb which says, "If you can tickle yourself, you can laugh when you please."